

Please amend patent Claims 1, 10, 17, and 18, as follows:

A¹

1. A process for producing a closed-cell polymer foam, said process comprising subjecting a foamable polymer composition comprising: (a) a predominant proportion of an optionally rubber-reinforced alkenyl aromatic polymer; and an additive for (a) consisting essentially of [comprising]: (b) alpha-methylstyrene, and (c) a rubbery block copolymer to a temperature sufficient to provide a molten polymer; mixing a non-solid blowing agent comprised of a combination of atmospheric and organic gases with said molten polymer; heating the mixture to a temperature and applying pressure such that the mixture does not foam; thereafter reducing the temperature of the mixture; and extruding the mixture.

A²

10. A process according to claim 1. [wherein the] further comprising a blowing agent [comprises] comprised of a mixture of (1) one or more solid organic acids and (2) an alkaline metal carbonate or alkaline metal bicarbonate.

A³

17. A process for producing a closed-cell polymer foam, said process comprising subjecting a foamable polymer composition comprising: (a) an optionally rubber-reinforced alkenyl aromatic polymer comprised of a copolymer or interpolymer of styrene-containing greater than 50 weight percent styrene; and an additive for (a) consisting essentially of [comprising]: (b) alpha-methylstyrene, and (c) a rubber block copolymer to a temperature sufficient to provide a molten polymer; mixing a non-solid blowing agent comprised of a combination of atmospheric and organic gases with said molten polymer; heating the mixture to a

A3 temperature and applying pressure such that the mixture does not foam; thereafter reducing the temperature of the mixture; and extruding the mixture.

18. A process for producing a closed-cell polymer foam, said process comprising subjecting a foamable polymer composition comprising: (a) an optionally rubber-reinforced alkenyl aromatic polymer, comprised of a blend of styrene and a rubbery polymer, and an additive for (a) [comprising] consisting essentially of: (b) alpha-methylstyrene; and (c) a rubber block copolymer to a temperature sufficient to provide a molten polymer; mixing a non-solid blowing agent comprised of a combination of atmospheric and organic gases with said molten polymer; heating the mixture to a temperature and applying pressure such that the mixture does not foam; thereafter reducing the temperature of the mixture; and extruding the mixture.

[Amend added Claims 19 and 33, as follows:]

A4 19. An additive suitable for use in a foamable polymer composition, said additive [comprising] consisting essentially of alpha-methylstyrene and a rubbery block copolymer.

A5 33. A foamable polymer composition comprising: (a) an optionally rubber-reinforced alkenyl aromatic polymer and an additive for (a) [comprising] consisting essentially of: (b) alpha-methylstyrene; and (c) a rubbery block copolymer.